

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 13

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April 1, 2005

In brief

Daylight-saving time

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour forward Saturday night. Daylight-saving time officially begins Sunday.



What's inside



Student controllers push simulated tin

... PAGE 11



Tyndall K-9s work, deploy with Airmen

... PAGE 19

The ORI is coming ...



... 79 days and counting

Holy water

The 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron's missile retrieval boat MR-120-8803 cruises past local clergy and Chaplain (Capt.) William Spencer (inset), 325th Fighter Wing, at the eight annual Blessing of the Fleet at the Panama City Marina Saturday. More than 50 people, including military, dependents and retirees, rode along on the boat to be a part of the ceremony. For more, see pages 12 - 13.



2nd Lt. William Powell

New program aims to improve moving process

SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAMPLE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Full replacement value for lost or damaged items is among several changes taking effect in October as part of a new program called "Families First" which aims to improve the moving process for military families.

"We're going to have a lot of happier campers because they are not going to be losing any money out of their pockets like they did before," said Cullen Hutchinson of the passenger and personal property office at the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria, Va.

Under the current claims process, servicemembers only receive a depreciated value for

property that is lost or damaged, he said.

For example, a \$200 television that is lost or damaged might only be valued at \$100 after depreciation, he said.

With Families First, he said, "the carrier will either replace the television with a similar one or reimburse the servicemember the full cost of a new one."

Another benefit of the program is that servicemembers will now deal directly with the carrier to arrange direct delivery of household goods, thus alleviating the need for temporary storage, he said.

"What makes this even better for the servicemembers is that whenever you have temporary storage (and) more han-

dling of your household goods, the more susceptible it is for loss or damage," Mr. Hutchinson said.

He said direct delivery will also save the services money now spent for temporary storage.

In Families First, servicemembers will file settlement claims directly with the carrier, using a Web-based claim-filing process.

"There will not be a middle man; the servicemember will be able to address the carrier directly on the issue (he or she has)," he said.

"And the carrier will have an incentive to take care of that servicemember in a positive way."

Mr. Hutchinson said servicemembers will be encouraged to complete a Web-based customer

satisfaction survey that measures the performance of carriers, and that survey will become part of that carrier's record.

"If the carrier's performance is poor, then the amount of business he's going to get from the government is going to fall off or stop completely," he said. "So there is an incentive there. It's no longer a competition on cost, but it's a competition now with cost and performance."

The survey gives servicemembers a chance to influence decisions on whether a carrier continues to do business with the Defense Department, Mr. Hutchinson said.

"And that decision is going to

● SEE MOVE PAGE 3

View from the Top: Every day is Wingman Day

GEN. DON COOK
Air Education and Training Command commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) — In December, we took a down-day to combat accidental deaths and suicides in the Air Force. However, Wingman Day was never intended to be a one-time “event.” Rather, it was a reminder to be good wingmen every day. The wingman concept extends to another issue we’re confronting – re-integrating Airmen into “home station life.”

Very shortly, the Air Staff will release a policy to assist commanders in effectively reintegrating Airmen after they return from deployments. As you may know from speaking with redeploying troops, their stress is real. Consider the Airmen performing the highly dangerous mission of convoy security or serving on critical care air transport teams for the seriously

wounded. These courageous people have personally experienced the horrors of war, and they deserve the fullest support when they return home.

So with the arrival of the Air Force policy, it will be up to all of us to turn this guidance into action. We need to take care of Airmen returning from the taxing challenges of a deployed environment. This is especially important in AETC, where our Airmen often lack the familiarity and security of deploying with their organizations. How can you help?

First - Commanders, emphasize face-to-face contact with your redeploying troops – and set the example.

Second - Have your Airmen take advantage of base agencies ready to support them and assist those struggling with reintegration.

Third - I ask those Airmen who have felt the hardships of reintegration to use

your experience to coach and counsel those who have recently redeployed.

Fourth - First sergeants and supervisors should follow up. Research shows troops typically begin to manifest problems three to six months after they redeploy.

Monitor this period closely to prevent challenges from becoming emergencies.

Finally - Everyone, don’t forget about taking care of our Air Force families.

Reintegrating into family life after a deployment can be tough, I’ve been there. Often the only one who will know how an Airman and family members are coping with reintegration is the Airman’s co-worker or friend. Thus, every Airman

“We need to take care of Airmen returning from the taxing challenges of a deployed environment.”

GEN. DON COOK
Air Education and Training Command commander



must be a wingman...that’s the culture of expeditionary-minded wingmen!

And every day must be Wingman Day. We will lean heavily on this principle of airmanship as we answer our nation’s call to duty. We will be tested in the fire of expeditionary warfare abroad and the pressure of resource constraints at home – all the more reason to integrate a wingman mindset into everything we do.

Command post – more than just ‘giant voice’

SENIOR MASTER SGT. THOMAS PIEKNIK
325th Fighter Wing command post

Most people don’t know who we are, where we are or what we do.

Command post controllers are the “other” 24/7, 365-day-per-year agency. We are always there, always watching and listening for any situation requiring notification to our installation leaders and higher headquarters alike.

There are cipher locks on the doors and you’ll never see a window to the outside world. Our window is our skills, knowledge, experience and that “hair sticking up on the back of our necks” feeling indicating something isn’t quite right.

Each controller is entered into initial training upon arrival – this includes operational reporting, joint chiefs of staff, Air Education and Training Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command Emergency Actions Message processing, operational and communications security, computer and emergency notification equipment operation, and flight following of all assigned and transient aircraft.

The 325th Fighter Wing commander or vice commander personally certifies each controller after an interview session and command post management recommendation.

The learning doesn’t stop there. In order to maintain certification qualifications, controllers must take monthly closed book emergency actions and open book general knowledge exams with a minimum passing score of 90 percent. They are also required to display their skills during monthly console evaluations consisting of different reporting and emergency scenarios.

All of this training pays dividends whenever weather phenomena, in-flight and ground emergencies, medical and fire responses, or security forces situations require us to activate alerting signals and initiate emergency response forces.

In fact, the only time you may hear from us is when the giant voice is activated, your television station is interrupted by an announcement, or we broadcast over the radio nets. We were very involved in each of the status changes during last year’s incredible

hurricane season. Three of us bedded down here to ride out the 36 critical hours to keep the base populace and higher headquarters informed of Team Tyndall’s status during the multiple tornados and wind damage Hurricane Ivan brought upon us.

We are lucky to have a team of very talented people whose charge is to be ready for anything, anywhere, anytime in support of the diverse missions of Team Tyndall. They comprise the nerve center of the installation. We are the first to know, and the focal point in which the commander effectively executes his forces during peacetime and war.

The command post career field remains one of the more stressed in the Air Force. Duties range from command to command ... mission movement/flight following, nuclear command and control support, combat search and rescue, counter-drug operations, airborne command and control and a mixture of each. Controllers always train for that ever-important EAM, proud in the knowledge that they can do the job that they trained to do, but praying that they never have to use it for real.

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For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

● **FROM MOVE PAGE 1**
be based on the performance of that carrier,” he said.

“(The result will be) more quality carriers, which will translate into quality service for our servicemembers,” Mr. Hutchinson said. “And higher-quality carriers will ultimately mean higher-quality moves.”

He said efforts like Families First should help improve the quality of service in the military moving industry that carries household goods of more than 500,000 servicemembers and their families each year.

He said problems in the moving industry have plagued the services for years, and that efforts to improve the moving process have been ongoing since 1994, starting with re-engineering of the household goods process.

“The perceptions were that DOD was experiencing a very high loss and damage rate,” Mr. Hutchinson said. “When we looked at the numbers, it was significantly higher than some of the corporate accounts.”

In addition, he said, claim rates also were higher for military moves. While average military claims ranged around \$500, he said many corporate claims were in the range of \$100.

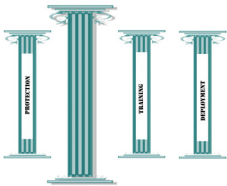
In the end, he said, DOD officials expect to see a “considerable decrease in loss and damage claims.”

“The reason for that is that the carrier is assuming a higher liability for claims,” he said. “So it’s in their best interest to protect the goods better so they are not subject to this loss.”

Mr. Hutchinson said the program also should ease some of the stress involved with moving.

“What we’re trying to do is reduce that stress for our servicemembers so they can concentrate on more important things and not worry about (their things),” he said.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Action Line: Reserved parking spaces

Q: Why are the chiefs’ parking and all the parking spots at the main Base Exchange not clearly identifiable as they should be? Two of them are totally illegible and you can hardly read the volunteer slot. I think it is a shame that someone won’t take five minutes to correct it.

A: Thank you for your interest in the reserved parking spaces at the Base Exchange. The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron has already worked this issue. The pavement marking you reference did not hold up well due to the heavy rains and bright sunshine we experience in the Florida panhandle. They required painting every six months to keep them legible. We solved this problem by making aluminum signs and placing them on bumper blocks to clearly annotate the reserved parking spaces. Next time you’re at the BX, be sure to look for these newly posted signs.

ON THE STREET

What is the best April Fool’s Day prank you have pulled?



“We generated a bogus assignment for a technical sergeant, sending him to Minot AFB, N.D.”

TECH. SGT. ED SCHROEDER
325th Maintenance Squadron



“I changed an assignment rip sending someone to Korea when they were hoping for (and got) Germany.”

SENIOR AIRMAN BRANDI LOVE
325th Civil Engineer Squadron



“I started a recall at my last base so everyone showed up to work early except me.”

STAFF SGT. DENISE BROWN
325th Medical Support Squadron



“In college we laid sod down in a friend’s dorm room to look like a putting green because he was into golf.”

2ND LT. ANDREW RUFUS
325th Air Control Squadron

Action Line Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

AAFES’ program tops \$800,000

JUDD ANSTEY

Headquarters AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS – Since the Army & Air Force Exchange Service began the “Gifts from the Homefront” program March 21, 2003, people from all walks of life have rallied around America’s troops by contributing \$805,555 towards the program designed to lift the morale of deployed troops around the world.

The certificates, which can be purchased by any individual or civic organization, allow servicemembers to purchase items of necessity and convenience at base exchange facilities around the world.

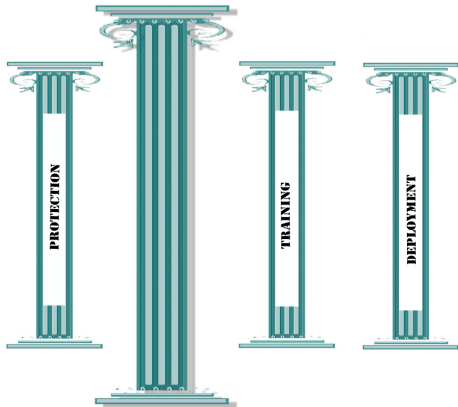
“Gifts from the Homefront” certificates can be addressed to “any service member” or individual service members. AAFES’ charitable partners have been integral in the distribution of certificates earmarked for “any service member.”

The United Service Organization, American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House have distributed 14,476 certificates, totaling more than \$242,000, to deployed troops. Friends and family have purchased \$562,795 of “Gifts from the Homefront” certificates for individual servicemembers.

“Working with the USO, American Red Cross, AFAS and Fisher House has allowed AAFES to get certificates into the hands of service members who need them most,” said Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES’ commander. “AAFES’ relationship with these charitable partners allows any American to have a direct impact on the morale of a deployed service- member, even if they don’t have a name or address for a particular Soldier or Airman.”

Because the gift certificates can be used for merchandise already stocked at contingency locations, “Gifts from the Homefront” are a safe alternative to traditional care packages that place unnecessary strain on the military mail system and present Force Protection issues.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Servicemembers can purchase exactly what they need with the certificates because they can be applied to a wide range of products. Reports from Operation Iraqi Freedom indicate that certificates are being used for the latest CDs and DVDs, and Military Exchange global pre-paid phone cards for those all-important calls home.

Those wishing to send a “Gift from the Homefront” can simply log on to www.aafes.com or call 1-877-770-4438 to purchase gift certificates in \$10 or \$20 denominations. From there, the “Gifts from the Homefront” may be sent to an individual service member designated by the purchaser or distributed to “any service member” through the USO, American Red Cross, AFAS or Fisher House.

“Gifts from the Homefront” gift certificates can be redeemed at any AAFES facility in the world, including Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom locations.

Tyndall members wanting more information on this program can visit the Tyndall Base Exchange, or call 283-5804.

Tyndall Airman convicted of possessing child porn

CAPT. ERIC JOHNSON
Base Legal Office

An Airman was convicted of possessing child pornography during a court-martial March 10 here.

A military judge sentenced Airman 1st Class Axel Acevedo, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, to five months confinement, a reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge after being found guilty of violating

Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and possessing child pornography.

Airman Acevedo said he used an internet file-sharing program to search for images of young boys, which he would then download and burn to a CD. The Airman acknowledged he knew the pictures were of real boys under the age of 18.

Airman Acevedo said he showed the pictures to two

other Airmen, one of which subsequently reported him to the authorities.

“Some people think this is a victimless crime, but the children in the images are victimized every time the images are viewed,” said Capt. Shawn Tabor, assistant trial counsel.

Airman Acevedo is currently serving his sentence in the 325th Security Forces Squadron confinement facility.

Increase in driving violations spawn SFS crackdown

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

With the rash of driving violations that have occurred at Tyndall recently, the 325th Security Forces Squadron has vowed to crack down on offenders in an effort to keep Tyndall people safe.

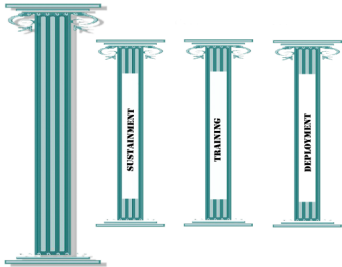
The latest reported violation involves people cutting through the service station parking lot to access the Base Exchange or pulling up to the gas pumps the wrong way.

“The entrance to the gas pumps faces the BX, so when people try to take shortcuts or don’t follow the one-way signs the risk for traffic accidents, altercations or possibly damaging the gas pumps greatly increases,” said Staff Sgt. Alijhondroe Wiley, 325th SFS NCO-in-charge of police services.

According to Sergeant Wiley, the security forces squadron will begin selective enforcement to ensure people are following Tyndall’s traffic rules, and those caught violating the rules could face stiff consequences.

“Violators will be cited for not obeying posted signs and/or speeding if they are caught. These violations carry a \$50 fine for civilian personnel, and for military members, the offense will be reported to their first sergeant or commander. Repeat offenders risk losing their driving privileges on Tyndall,” Sergeant Wiley said.

FORCE PROTECTION



To help drivers ensure they are accessing the service station the right way the security forces squadron is coordinating with the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron to ensure signs are visible and paint directional markings on the ground, but Sergeant Wiley added the drivers have to be responsible for knowing the rules.

“Traffic violations can quickly become serious offenses if someone is injured or property is damaged,” said Maj. Frank Howard, 325th SFS commander. “We owe it to every person on Tyndall to ensure a safe environment, and we’re going to take whatever steps necessary to make sure people are following the rules.”

“The important thing is to obey the traffic signs and arrows, and don’t be in a hurry,” Sergeant Wiley added. “People going to the BX should make sure they are using the correct entrance.”

People witnessing traffic infractions can notify the security forces control center by calling 283-2254.

Tyndall pays tribute to coworker, mentor, friend

CAPT. SUSAN A. ROMANO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

“He was one of the most devoted game wardens I’ve ever had the pleasure to work with,” was just one of the tributes paid to a longtime employee at Tyndall AFB by coworkers and friends at a memorial service held in his honor March 28.

Joe Maples passed away March 24 after a fatal auto accident in Panama City. His brother, Kenneth Maples, was in the passenger seat of the vehicle when they were hit. He survived with only minor injuries.

Mr. Maples, a member of the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron’s Natural Resources Flight, had been employed as a game warden for more than 16 years, and was getting ready to retire from civil service this summer.

“He was an avid animal lover and great steward to the environment,” said Dr. Jack

Mobley, 325th CES wildlife biologist. “As our game warden, he was responsible for the enforcement of both Tyndall AFB and State conservation rules and regulations and took those responsibilities very seriously. He would work long and odd hours to ensure the wildlife on Tyndall’s nature preserve was protected. He will be sorely missed.”

Prior to becoming Tyndall’s game warden, Mr. Maples served 20 years in the Air Force as a radar operator. He retired in 1978 and became an electrician before going back to school to get a law enforcement certification.

“We in Security Forces worked very closely with Joe,” said Maj. Frank Howard, 325th Security Forces Squadron commander. “He was an incredible asset to us from a law enforcement perspective because he didn’t punch a clock – he knew the ‘crimi-

nals’ would be out there in the middle of the night, possibly poaching on our land. We lost a good friend.”

To honor Mr. Maples, Major Howard authorized all 325th SFS personnel to wear a ‘black band’ on their SFS shield for a week, a tradition steeped in history and respect for fallen law enforcement officers.

Services for Mr. Maples were held at Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home in Panama City, where family and friends gathered to honor his legacy.

“Joe loved his wife and family – there was never any doubt about that,” said Craig L. Walker, senior pastor for First Baptist Church of Parker. “He was a man of integrity and a man who believed in God. As I look around at those in attendance here at his service, I see the impact he had not only on his family and friends, but on his community as well.

He will not be forgotten and he will live on in the lives of the people he touched.”

Those wishing to make a donation in Mr. Maples’ name can send it to the First Baptist Church of Parker, Attention: Building Fund, P.O. Box 10301, Panama City, Fla., 32404.



Courtesy photo

Help Us Conserve



YOU HAVE
the POWER®

Congratulations Tyndall's second quarter BTZ selectees!

(Editor's note: The following airmen first class were selected for below-the-zone promotions)

Sarah Denning	325th CONS
Kristy Stafford	1st FS
Theresa Edmiston	81st TSS
Jordan Farrell	325th ACS
Ruben Labrador	325th MXS
Maria Amezcua	325th MXS
Jason Deardorff	325th CS
James Smith	325th CS
Evan Bazeley	325th AMXS
Jason Matthews	325th AMXS
Joseph Wertz	325th AMXS
Anthony Smith	325th AMXS
Travis Whitton	325th AMXS



Career job reservation required to re-enlist

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Force officials recently released guidance to clarify re-enlistment eligibility requirements for first-term Airmen and retrainees.

According to the message, first-term Airmen may re-enlist as soon as they have an approved career job reservation, which reserves their position in that career field. Enlisted Airmen must also have completed at least three years of their four-year enlistment or five years of their six-year enlistment.

However, a CJR is not guaranteed for every Airman, said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor.

The reservations are not available until 12 months prior to the date of separation, but many people will not receive a CJR at all nor will they be able to re-enlist if they are in an overmanned career field. Only first-term Airmen selected for re-enlistment by their commander will be allowed to apply for a CJR, he said.

"This is one method the Air Force is using in its force shaping program," Sergeant Kahapea said. "It helps the service place people in undermanned positions while reducing the amount of career fields with too many people assigned."

First-term Airmen in overmanned career fields should start looking for a new job as early as possible to ensure they have as many options available to them as possible. Waiting until the last minute could mean an undesirable position as the only selection.



Senior Airman Melissa Connolly

Airmen choosing to retrain into a different career field may have the option to extend their enlistment to allow time for retraining, and then re-enlist into that new career field.

"Retrainees may be able to cancel the extension immediately after graduating from their new training course, and if their new career field receives a selective re-enlistment bonus, then they can receive that bonus," Sergeant Kahapea said. "They won't receive that bonus if they just extend their enlistment without re-enlisting into that new specialty."

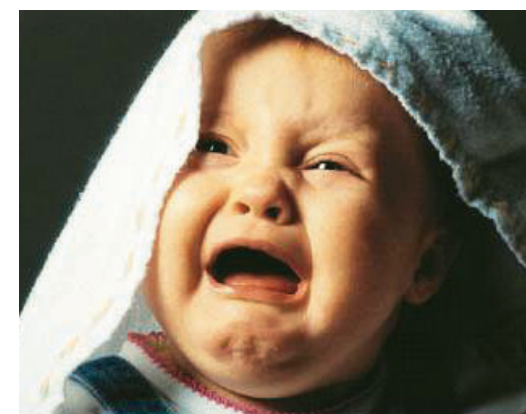
Airmen can view which specialties are overmanned and receiving limited CJRs by accessing the Web site www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. The numbers indicate how many CJRs are allowed each month.

"Certain career fields only permit one per month, which means it is virtually impossible to re-enlist into," Sergeant Kahapea said.

For more information on re-enlisting and retraining, contact Sergeant Kahapea at 283-2222, or visit the CJR Web site www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/CJR.htm.

Did you miss past issues of the Gulf Defender? Don't fret!

We're online:
www.tyndall.af.mil/News/news.htm



Tyndall MDG, Airmen take AETC top honors

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Medical Group and 12 members recently earned Air Education and Training Command's 2004 Air Force medical service awards.

Senior Airman Danielle Wofford, 325th Medical Support Squadron, earned the Surgeon General's Medical Information Systems Award for outstanding achievement and contributions to both AFMS and medical service information Systems.

Capt. Chad Claar, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, received the Lt. Col. George M. Prascsak Public Health Award for exceptional performance and accomplishments as a company grade officer in public health.

The Outstanding Resource Management Award went to Senior Airman Cathy Miller and Sandy Gilmer, both from the 325th MDSS. The award is presented to an Airman and a civilian who exhibit outstanding individual duty

performance and achievement.

The title of Senior NCO Pharmacy Technician of the Year went to Senior Master Sgt. David Ashley, 325th MDSS, for his exceptional achievement and performance.

The recently-promoted Staff Sgt. Richard Alfonso, 325th Medical Operations Squadron, earned the Brig. Gen. Sarah Wells Outstanding Airman Award for nursing service. The award recognizes Airmen with superior contributions in leadership and job performance.

The title of Airman Pharmacy Technician of the Year went to Senior Airman Austin Weeks, 325th MDSS. The title is awarded to Airmen who demonstrate exceptional duty performance and achievement.

Master Sgt. Rhonda Sharbini, 325th ADS, earned the Outstanding Aerospace Medicine Award for her work and achievement in support of the aerospace operational medicine mission.

Leading the way in training, super-

vising and managing patient care earned Master Sgt. Sandra Thornton, 325th MDOS, the Chief Master Sgt. Lewis Dunlap Award.

Senior Airman Laura Trumbower, 325th MDSS, received the Health Plans Management Airman of the Year Award for her accomplishments, innovations and contributions in processing patients.

First Lt. Steven Fox and Master Sgt. John Mangelsdorf, both from the 325th MDSS, received the Medical Logistics Award for outstanding team and individual performance in logistics.

The 325th Medical Group also earned the Medical Logistics Team Award for its logistics programs and overall activity.

According to Lt. Col. Bradley Herremans, the group's deputy commander, the only way the group accomplishes its mission is through the efforts of extremely dedicated personnel like these winners.

"We strive to provide the absolute best healthcare and overall fitness support to all our beneficiaries and the Tyndall community," he said. "The awards program is just one way we can thank these dedicated individuals for doing such a fine job and making our group one of the best in the Air Force. We are all extremely proud of these folks and the rest of the 325th Medical Group team that continues to provide the highest quality healthcare available."

Captain Claar added that the group and its members will continue to shine this year during the many upcoming inspections.

"We expect this to be a very successful year including a slam dunk in the upcoming readiness and hospital inspections. We look forward to being able to show off all our hard work over the last year and then refocus towards continually improving the impact our operations have on the Air Force mission," the captain said.



ORI TIP OF THE WEEK

Week 11:

First impressions can only be made once. Get your offices clean prior to the visit, and work to keep them that way. Go through old files and discard out-of-date materials. Ensure old equipment and unused computers are properly tagged and disposed.

AAFES civilian receives Defense of Freedom medal

DALLAS – Sarah Latona became the first Army & Air Force Exchange Service associate in its 109-year history to receive the Defense of Freedom Medal.

The civilian equivalent of the military's Purple Heart, the Defense of Freedom Medal honors civilian employees of the Department of Defense injured or killed in the line of duty.

October 9, 2004, was a "normal night" according to Ms. Latona, a 42-year-old wife and mother from Idaho. After 15 months of driving the dangerous roads in Iraq, she was keenly aware of the "normal" dangers that lurk around each and every corner of a war zone. On that night, Ms. Latona went to the staging yard at Camp Victory in Baghdad, grabbed a shower and loaded up her bus with AAFES financial paperwork and three troops who were heading to Scania, Iraq (a fueling station along the convoy's route).

As the vehicle crept through the darkness of the Iraqi desert, Ms. Latona and her passengers suddenly heard a "big pop." The "pop" was actually an explosion that rocked the vehicle she and the troops were riding in.

"I didn't even realize we had been hit," said Ms. Latona. "I heard the Soldiers screaming and I was like, oh my goodness. I kept driving the truck, but it stopped after only 150 feet."

The bus she was driving was destroyed and she obtained

multiple serious wounds from shrapnel to the eye, face, right arm, right leg and backside. Ms. Latona's passengers were also injured and three other trucks in the convoy behind her were engulfed in flames. Everyone in the convoy survived, but the chaos of the moment is one she won't soon forget.

"The lead Humvee circled back and troops began pulling us from the vehicle," said Ms. Latona. "I was quickly evacuated from the scene via helicopter and taken to a Baghdad hospital." She visited multiple hospitals before finally arriving stateside at Walter Reed Hospital less than a week after the explosion.

Almost six months after that fateful night in Iraq, Ms. Latona is back at her home station in Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, working four hours a day in AAFES' Military Clothing Sales Store. "I'm doing well ... getting a little sight back in my eye," said Ms. Latona. "The doctors are amazed by my recovery and expect me to be seeing soon and fully recovered in two years."

Col. Charles Shugg, 366th Fighter Wing commander, pinned the Defense of Freedom Medal on Ms. Latona at a ceremony at Mountain Home AFB's Base Exchange, March 24. Guests included Ms. Latona's husband Carl, Mountain Home Mayor Joe McNeal, AAFES' Western Region Senior Vice President Javier Cerna, AAFES Area Manager Marie Clift and AAFES General Manager Rick Lein.

AAFES associates who are preparing to deploy from



Courtesy photo

Sarah Latona, an AAFES' employee at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, poses at her award ceremony where she received the Defense of Freedom medal, the civilian equivalent to the Purple Heart.

Mountain Home to facilities in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom regularly stop by the MCSS to talk with Ms. Latona before they leave. "I tell them to try and have fun and enjoy their tour," she said. "AAFES and its associates are there to help and try to provide the troops with a better life. Helping and caring for troops in a contingency location offers its own rewards. AAFES people are hard working, helpful and want to be there for America's troops."



2nd Lt. William Powell

Pinning pop

Second Lt. David Mulder, 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager student, receives a blue ribbon from his son, Austin, at the Tyndall Youth Center Tuesday. The blue ribbon is in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, which begins today, and is authorized for wear on the uniform for the month of April. Currently, Tyndall Airmen can order the ribbons at www.positivepromotions.com. Look for child abuse prevention articles in the Gulf Defender throughout the month of April.

Child abuse prevention

There are many reasons why adults hurt children. Understanding these reasons and what can be done to intervene can help protect children from the consequences of abuse or neglect. Adults hurt children because:

- They don't know how to manage their anger and frustration
- They lose their tempers when they think of their own problems
- They don't know how to discipline a child
- They expect behavior that is unrealistic for a child's age or ability
- They have been abused by a parent or partner
- They have financial problems
- They lose control when they use alcohol or other drugs

Child abuse includes physical abuse – e.g., shaking, slapping, or beating – or sexual abuse – e.g., fondling a child's genitals or having intercourse with a child. Child neglect means that a child's basic need for food, clothing, shelter or safety is not being met. Most parents and caretakers do not intend to hurt or neglect their children, but they may not know better ways of coping with their own problems while meeting the needs of their children.

Children who are abused or neglected need help from other adults in their lives. For more information about what you can do to help a child who has been abused or neglected, call Family Advocacy Office at 283-7511.

(Courtesy of the Family Advocacy Office)

Tyndall's AFAF drive raises more than \$72,000

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign drive officially wrapped up Tuesday and the wing exceeded its goal by raising more than \$72,000.

"Team Tyndall Airmen were donating to the fund at a rate between \$9,000 and \$10,000 per week for the first few weeks," said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Pieknik, the installation project officer. "Weeks four and five trailed off a bit, though, and we wondered if we would meet our goal."

Sergeant Pieknik said it has been difficult this year asking for donations since the past six months have included multiple donation opportunities and worthwhile charities such as the Hurricane Ivan Relief, Tsunami Relief and the Combined Federal Campaign drive.

"However, the AFAF is about Airmen helping Airmen and it is the only time

of year Airmen can donate to this cause."

The fund assists Airmen with emergency or educational needs and it provides a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Despite Sergeant Pieknik's concern for meeting the installation's goal, Tyndall pulled ahead in the final days due to the hard work of unit project officers and through some common ingenuity.

"Our folks at the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency came up with a great idea to give something back to the people who donated at their unit," he said.

"We came up with the idea of a breakfast cart filled with all kinds of goodies," said Master Sgt. Melissa Seguin, AFCEA alternate project officer. "We took food donations of either baked goods or store-bought, then loaded up

two carts and wheeled the food around to the entire unit. Nearly everyone eats something for breakfast, so it was a real success."

According to Senior Master Sgt. Garry Berry, the unit's primary project officer, they pushed around the carts for approximately two hours on two separate days and raised more than \$400.

"It was nearly all profit since most people donated the food and supplies, as well," he said. "We plan to adopt the idea for a reoccurring unit fundraiser since it did so well."

Sergeant Berry said the unit then divided up the money four ways and donated an equal portion to each of the fund's four options: Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund, and the General LeMay Foundation Indigent Widows' Fund.

Overall, Sergeant Pieknik said he is



2nd Lt. William Powell

Senior Master Sgt. Garry Berry, Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency AFAF project officer, searches through some ingredients at the Health and Wellness Center kitchen to use for the unit's next breakfast cart fundraiser. His unit raised more than \$400 in less than five hours for Tyndall's AFAF campaign drive that ended Tuesday.

pleased with everyone's response to this worthy cause, since an Airman here could someday receive the benefits of Team Tyndall's generosity.

Checkertail Salute

Tech. Sgt. Charles Nimmo



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Nimmo receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Nimmo, who is the 325th Logistics Readiness Division contract functional manager. He spearheaded Defense Travel System implementation, saving more than \$40,000 in equipment conversion, training and contractor man-hours. During his deployment to Al Udeid, he directed the movement of more than 1,700 tons of error free lean logistics cargo.

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

Duty title: Contract functional manager

Time on station: One year, three months

Time in service: Fifteen years, four months

Hometown: Shreveport, La.

Hobbies: Softball, hunting and fishing

Goals: Make master sergeant and finish my CCAF degree

Favorite movie: "Band of Brothers"

Favorite book: "Green Eggs and Ham"

Favorite thing about Tyndall: Warm weather

Pet peeves: Rude people

Proudest moment in the military: Being selected for the Commandant's Award when I graduated from NCO Academy

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Angie Avendano, a member of the 325th Maintenance Squadron commander's support staff.



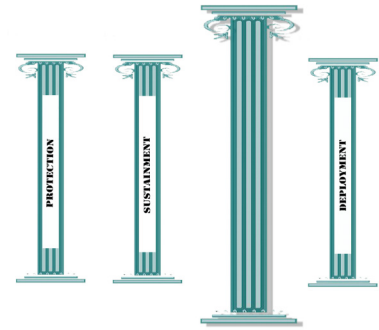
WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT JUST WEREN'T MEANT TO BE HANDLED ALONE ...

IF YOU NEED A WINGMAN THE BASE CHAPLAIN, THE LIFE SKILLS COUNSELORS, AND THE PEOPLE AT 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) ARE READY TO HELP.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY

FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What are you looking forward to the most in your upcoming training?

"I'm looking forward to the day I actually fly the F-15 for the first time because I have been working towards that day for years."



2ND LT. PAT WILLIAMS
2nd Fighter Squadron
F-15 Eagle B-Course student

High-tech sim helps teach student controllers how to push Tyndall tin

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's a smooth morning for a young air traffic control trainee. There's not much on the "scope," and tower activity is minimal. Within minutes the airspace around Tyndall comes alive and dozens of aircraft are taking off and arriving.

The controller works the airspace quickly and appears to have everything in hand. Suddenly, an F-15 Eagle declares an in-flight emergency. Now, decisions have to be made quickly.

This is the first time he's seen anything like this and the Airman feels overwhelmed. Fortunately, it's a simulation, and the instructor behind him can push the pause button to allow the controller to gather his thoughts.

Nestled in a small room in the Tyndall Radar Approach Control facility here is an \$800,000 air traffic control simulator that makes the newest video games look low-tech. Everything is as real as it can get, from reproducing any Air Force aircraft taxiing on the ramp or flying in the pattern to the buildings on the flightline. To someone seeing the simulator for the first time it would appear the Air Force spared no expense, and for good reason.

This state-of-the-art device is a critical tool in preparing Airmen, both enlisted and officers, to handle the rigors associated with keeping multi-million dollar pieces of flying



1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Airman 1st Class Dwight Allen, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control apprentice, monitors the Tyndall flightline from his simulated control tower while issuing instructions to virtual F-15 Eagles performing maneuvers in the pattern Monday. The simulator provides a high-tech environment for student air traffic controllers to learn to adapt and deal with Tyndall's unique airspace.

metal from touching one another.

According to Senior Airman Joseph Young, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller and an instructor since June 2003, the simulator is a valuable tool in helping students become rated air traffic controllers or airfield operations officers.

"The simulator decreases training time in all four of the tower positions by about 50 percent," Airman Young said. "We can cre-

ate various scenarios or conditions, which is a huge benefit when there's either not enough or too much going on to teach trainees."

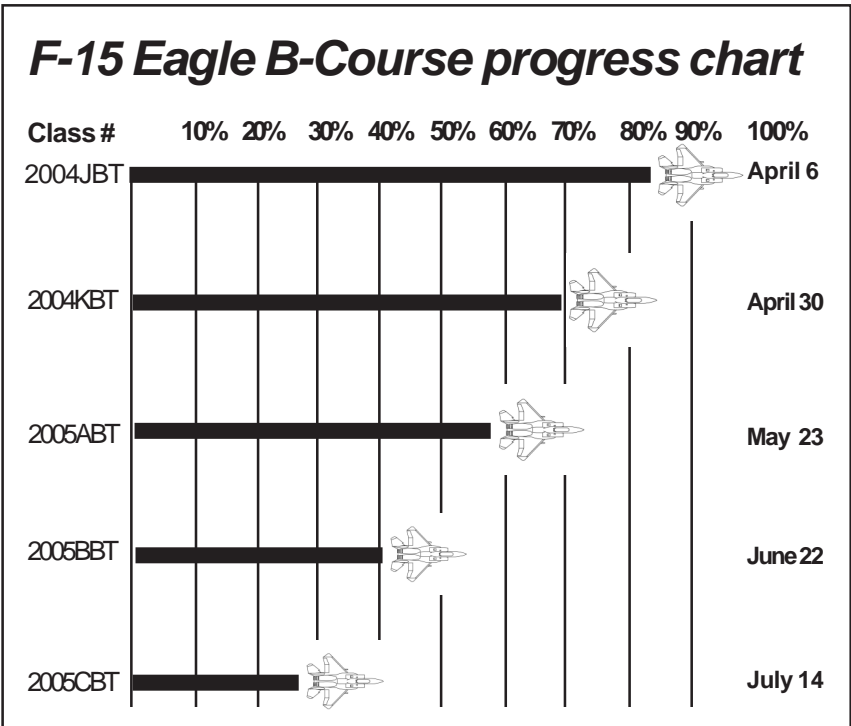
Airman Young added some of the features of the simulator include the ability to produce 67 different scenarios ranging from basic traffic scenarios to complex situations, such as having to simultaneously handle 30 arriv-

● SEE TOWER PAGE 22

Switcheroo

Don Muller, left, an F-15 Eagle Basic Course instructor, presents a mock-up of an Eagle's cockpit controls to the new B-Course class Wednesday here. Class FBT began March 25 and includes, from left, 2nd Lts. Pat Killingsworth and Pat Williams, and Capt. Troy Cappelli. The students will complete 125 training days before graduating Oct. 11.

2nd Lt. William Powell



Tyndall chaplain, boat participate in Panama City's fleet blessing



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It was a grey, damp morning as people young and old boarded the yellow and red boat for a three-hour cruise.

Yet unlike the S.S. Minnow, the efforts of the fearless crew brought them not to a deserted tropical isle, but to the eighth annual Blessing of the Fleet.

Mike Wilson, captain of Tyndall's missile retrieval boat MR-120-8803, took more than 50 people to the Panama City Marina Saturday to watch and be a part of a parade of watercrafts both civilian and military.

"The purpose of this event is to ask God's blessing on the souls of the commercial seamen who make their living from the sea, as well as pray for the continued safe passage of all vessels from these elements," said Skip Cruce, Blessing Committee chairman. "Delegates from all denominations are invited to participate."

Those delegates blessed the boats, including Navy vessels and fishing boats, as they slowly passed by the marina one by one. Some clergy even sprinkled holy water on the passing boats.

"We'll hit them with holy water, spiritually if not physically," said Father Tom Weller of Holy



Above: Neysa Wilkins, a WJHG-TV news anchor, sings the National Anthem at the eight annual Blessing of the Fleet at the Panama City Marina Saturday. This was Ms. Wilkins sixth year singing at the Blessing of the Fleet.

Right: Bob Sipple, a retired Air Force master sergeant, and his wife Betty watch as the Poseidon, a Naval yard diving tender, cruises by on its way to be blessed. Local clergy, including Navy and Air Force chaplains, conducted the traditional blessings for the upcoming spring boating season.



ity Episcopal School in Panama City. Although the priests may have had trouble with a motorboat with holy water as it passed by, the blessing was for the protection of water vessels and updates boats that run on horsepower instead of manpower.

The Greeks started fleet blessings to ask for their ships' safe return, said Rev. Bill Kundo, Panama Coast Community College religion professor. Here in America it continued on, with people asking God to protect their vessels on the long voyage between the New World and Europe. It became tradition to conduct the blessing around the time of Easter because in spring the water would be warmer and it marked the beginning of the sailing season. For Panama City, the event is eight years old and has always involved Tyndall.

The missile retrieval boat is one of three being used by the 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, which is part of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Squadron, said Lt. Col. Mike Vaccaro, 82nd ATRS operations officer. The boats are used to retrieve subscale drones when they are shot down by pilots on training missions.

Not only is this a chance for folks to see our operations, it's also a chance for us to relax a little bit, especially to the retirees,"

said Colonel Vaccaro.

Retirees staying at the FamCamp here were invited by the 325th Services Squadron, in a consolidated effort with the 53rd WEG, to ride along for the Blessing of the Fleet.

"This is our first time going to the Blessing of the Fleet," said Steven Tope, a retired chief master sergeant. "I really think it's special seeing the Air Force participate in community activities."

"I've been to a lot of bases," Mr. Tope continued, "and Tyndall does (community involvement) better than anywhere else."

In fact, Tyndall not only had a ship involved in the event, but a chaplain as well.

"I volunteered to come out (to the Blessing of the Fleet)," said Chaplain (Capt.) William Spencer, 325th Fighter Wing. "It sounded fun, and I love boating. It just seemed right up my alley."

This was Chaplain Spencer's first time at a fleet blessing, but not his last.

"I didn't know what to expect coming out here," he said. "But being there with other pastors from other backgrounds was a lot of fun. Even if next time I don't come out in an official capacity, it's just a fun event to which to bring the family."



2nd Lt. William Powell



2nd Lt. William Powell



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Top: Spectators watch as three state Fish and Wildlife Commission boats pass by the marina to be blessed. People came by land and water to be a part of the event.

Above: Two Navy seamen stand at ease upon the bow of their ship as it cruises past the marina. The Navy, Coast Guard and the Air Force were out at the Blessing of the Fleet along with civilian boats, including fishing vessels and yachts.

Left: A civilian boat sets a heading into St. Andrew's Bay after participating in the fleet blessing. The Blessing of the Fleet, a three-hour event, is also known as Opening Day on the Bay.



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office at 283-2737 or by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil.

Gulf Coast Community College

The next GCCC Tyndall Center placement test will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Tyndall Center. Schedules for summer and fall will be available April 11. Tyndall registration for summer and fall will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 13. Also, GCCC will be holding Microsoft classes. The Intro to Access course is from 8 – 11 a.m. April 18 – 21. The Excel Basic course is from 8 – 11 a.m. May 16 – 20. The cost for the course is \$70 and the cost for the books is \$22.50. For more information, call 283-4332.

Moms, Pops and Tots

The Tyndall Community Center is offering Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots each Wednesday from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Bring your ideas on how we can make this a fun, exciting and educational experience for all. For more information, contact Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail znory7@yahoo.com.

Air National Guard opportunities

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has Traditional Guard vacancies available. For more information, contact Master Sgt. James Reeves, at DSN 344-2457 or 1-800-524-5070, or by e-mail at James.Reeves@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

Palace Chase Force Shaping

With the Air Force close to reaching their desired number of separatees, the force shaping program will soon be coming to a close. Members who are thinking about leaving active duty early can transfer their commitment into the Air Force Reserve without having to payback bonuses, and while maintaining many of the same benefits. There are Air Force Reserve opportunities available in many locations in the U.S. and overseas. Re-training into a different career field is also an option. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Randi Baum at 283-8384, or by e-mail at randi.baum@tyndall.af.mil, or visit the Military Personnel Flight, Bldg. 662, Room 222.

Volunteers needed

The Tyndall Volunteer Resource Program serves as the central base resource for volunteer recruitment, placement and recognition.

Face trace

Andrenna Reese, a Tyndall Youth Center school-age program assistant, draws a silhouette of Taskyerah Adams, daughter of Staff Sgt. Latisha Brunson, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, at the Youth Center Monday. The silhouettes of children from Youth Center will be hung up around base in an effort to remind people of Child Abuse Prevention Month all through April.



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

The program assists individuals seeking volunteer opportunities to meet their volunteer goals and authorized organizations and agencies to recruit qualified volunteers. Volunteers are currently needed at Family Services/Airman's Attic, the Red Cross, Retiree Activities Office, 325th Services Squadron and other locations at Tyndall. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

Birthday meal

Berg-Liles Dining Facility is hosting its semi-annual birthday meal 5 p.m. April 27. The theme is "Let's Luau." There will be a costume contest with prizes awarded to first and second place. The meal, which includes lobster and steak, is free for meal card holders and \$22 for BAS recipients. For more information, call the Berg-Liles Dining Facility at 283-2239 or 283-4992.

Tricare benefits briefing

The 325th Medical Group will present a Tricare health benefits briefing from 6:30 – 9 p.m. April 21 at the NCO Academy. The information is designed to help spouses and dependents understand their healthcare benefits. Parking is available across from the academy near the Burger King. For more information, contact Jim Blanchard at 283-7157 or Donna Dickerson at 286-5484.

Tricare news

The Tricare Management Activity has contracted with Westat Incorporated, a survey research firm in the Washington, D.C. area, to conduct a nationwide telephone survey of Tricare beneficiaries on behalf of the Communications and Customer Service Directorate. The survey will gather information about beneficiary Web preferences and will explore findings of a similar February 2004 survey which

indicated customers consider Tricare call centers difficult to use.

The survey will be made for approximately six weeks. The study design calls for 10-minute phone interviews with recent Tricare benefit users and will probably require calling approximately 5,000 households.

The Medical Support Squadron assures the legitimacy and importance of this survey, as it will help the DOD and their Humana partners identify and resolve issues with the new Tricare information resources.

Town Hall meeting

The Housing Office is hosting a Base Housing Town Hall Meeting at the Youth Activities Center Tuesday starting at 7 p.m.

Thrft Shop hours

The Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club Thrift Shop is closed until Wednesday for Spring Break. Normal hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Consignments are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 286-5888.

Free pre-Kindergarden screening

Bay District Schools and the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources Systems/Panhandle Area Educational Consortium will sponsor free Pre-K screenings for three- to four-year-old children April 14 and 28, and May 11. Children will be screened in the areas of speech and language, motor skills, school readiness skills, vision and hearing. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 872-4857.

Garage Sales

3407 Smith Street in Felix Lake
Garage sales are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Chapel Schedule**Weekly Bible study**

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30 – 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in Room 108.

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday–Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Religious education classes, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1476
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

Jewish Passover schedule

This year, Passover is preceded by the Sabbath which begins the evening of April 22. Passover will be observed from sundown, April 23 through sunset, May 1. The first two days, April 24 and 25, and the last two days, April 30 and May 1, are days of religious obligation for people of the Jewish faith.

Passover Seder will be 6 p.m., April 23, at Temple B'Nai Israel, 1910 Frankford Ave., Panama City. The deadline for making reservations is April 13. For more information, call Nathan Miller at Temple B'Nai Israel at 522-8625.

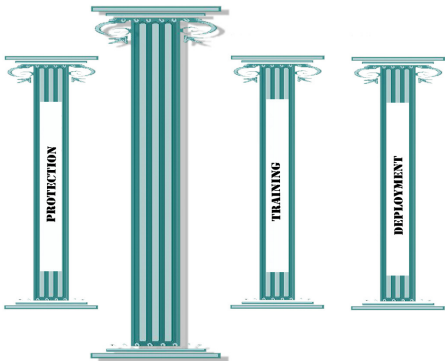


Double team

At the net, Eric Haeuptle, 325th Air Control Squadron, tries to spike the ball past the 95th Fighter Squadron's Scott Stadelman, left, and Joe Beahm, as their teammates hustle to keep the volley going at an intramural volleyball game at the Fitness Center Tuesday. The 95th FS won two straight matches in a close competition.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



The Phantom of the Opera
6 p.m. Thursday

Andrew Lloyd Webber's sumptuous musical comes to the screen in this film adaptation. Deformed since birth, a bitter man known only as the Phantom lives in the sewers underneath the Paris Opera House. He falls in love with the obscure chorus singer Christine, and privately tutors her while terrorizing the rest of the opera house and demanding Christine be given lead roles. Things get worse when Christine meets back up with her childhood acquaintance Raoul and the two fall in love. The Phantom decides to kidnap her and imprison her with him in his lair. Raoul is now the only one who can stop him.

(Movie information courtesy of www.imdb.com. Used with permission)

(Editor's note: Due to the Information, Tickets & Tours Travel Show, there will be no movie shown April 14. All movies are subject to change)

Intramural Sports Standings

Volleyball



Team	Win	Loss
AMXS	5	0
95 FS	4	0
MXS	4	0
MDG	4	2
RHS	4	2
CONR	3	2
COMM	2	2
AFCESA	2	3
SEADS	2	3
SVS	1	2
ACS 1	1	3
53 WEG/82 TRS	1	4
TEST	0	4
ACS 2	0	6

Soccer

Team	Win	Loss	Tie
ACS	3	0	1
OSS	3	0	1
SFS	3	1	0
MXS	2	1	0
372 TRS	2	2	0
TEST	2	2	0
CES	2	2	0
SEADS	1	3	0
83 FWS	1	3	0
COMM	0	5	0



Squadron sports teams need support!

Volleyball games start at 6:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and are played at the Fitness Center. Soccer games start at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and are played at the Heritage Soccer Field.

The Fitness Center offers a wide variety of intramural sports throughout the year. For more information on how to sign up, contact your unit sports representative or call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.



Funshine NEWS



Produced by the 325th Services Squadron

www.325thservices.com

All ranks at the O'Club Tyndall's famous Gulf Coast Shrimp and Seafood Bonanza

Tonight 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Market price: \$18.95

Children 6-11: \$9.50

5 and under: \$4.95

Members receive a \$3 discount



- Menu -

Snow crab station
Peel and eat shrimp station
Beef carving station
Variety of selected shrimp dishes
Breaded shrimp
Seafood newberg
Clam chowder soup
Mashed potatoes with gravy
Steamed rice
Hush puppies
Vegetables
Assorted desserts

283-4357



All ranks at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

Free Movie Night

Thursday

Phantom of the Opera

Rated PG - 13

Movie 6 p.m.

Only ballet mistress Madame Giry knows that Christine's mysterious "Angel of Music" is actually the Phantom, a disfigured musical genius who haunts the catacombs of the theatre, terrifying the ensemble of artists who live and work there.

Snack Bar items include:

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs, nachos, popcorn, candy, and soda.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

283-4357

Community Center

☎ 283-2495

Pilates instructor

The cardio center is looking for an additional Pilates instructor. If you have the right qualifications, we are looking for you. Call

Base-level table tennis tournament

April 16, 1 p.m. This event is open to active duty AF members, DOD civilians, contractors, family members and retirees. All participants must be 18 years or older. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be given. Sign up by April 9.

Gulf Coast Salute food concession

Here is an opportunity for your squadron or private organization to earn some extra income. All units & organizations interested in participating in this year's open house (May 14 - 15) must fill out a concession application. Official military units assigned to Tyndall AFB will have priority. The number of booths available is limited. Concession packages are available at the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 1027, Tuesday - Saturday.

Leisure Travel office

The Leisure Travel office located at the Community Center, will be closed until Friday. The office will reopen Monday.

Pizza Pub in the CAC NASCAR race Sunday

Food City 400

Pizza Pub opens at 11 a.m.

Race begins at 11:30 a.m.

Races shown at the Pizza Pub.

Prizes for participation will be given at each event. Must be a current club member to win.

283-3222 for details

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Shito-Ryu karate classes

Classes begin Tuesday at the Youth Center gym, Bldg. 3323. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-5:50 p.m., ages 6 through 12, 6-6:50 p.m., ages 13 and up. Cost for a month, \$25 ages 6 through 18 and \$35 for ages 19 and up. No uniform required. Come out and try before you buy. Adults are welcome!

Air Force Club Scholarship Program



Applicants must be accepted by, or enrolled in, an accredited college or university graduate or undergraduate program by fall of 2005. Information packages with complete instructions and requirements are available from the Tyndall Officers' Club.

Entry deadline
is July 15.

First place
\$6,000

Six scholarships will
be awarded to AF
Club members or
their eligible family
members.

283-4357

for more information

Sponsored in part by:

CHAGE and Master Card.

No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.



Travel Expedition 2005

INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL

APRIL 15 10 A.M.-1 P.M.
AT THE TYNDALL ENLISTED CLUB

**More than \$8,000
in door prizes!
and surprise freebies.**

**More than
80 vendors!**



Play Texas

Hold 'Em !

All ranks at the Tyndall Enlisted Club
Sign-ups start at 6 p.m. - Play starts at 7 p.m.

Play every Saturday for seven weeks.

Grand championship April 16

\$15 per player per week includes food and 5,000 points in chips

Top three nightly winners awarded prizes.

Nightly winner has chance to draw a "Royal Flush" and win a new car.

Two vehicles to choose from:

Nissan 2005 Altima - 2005 Frontier

Sign up at the door.

Call 283-4357

Must be an active USAF Club member.

Sponsored in part by
Lloyd



No federal endorsement
of sponsor intended

Tyndall Show and Shine Cruise-in Cars



Trucks

Show off your wheels



April 22

4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tyndall Enlisted
Club parking lot

Refreshments,
tasty food and
great music.

Motorcycles

Air Force Club members
receive
complimentary food.



Please call 283-1108 or e-mail
susan.pumill@tyndall.af.mil. No base sticker?
No problem. Contact Susan Pumill to register
by April 18.

Daedalians recognize, reward AF excellence

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

If you haven't heard of the Order of the Daedalians, the name may conjure visions of secret societies, shrouded in mystery; however, that couldn't be farther from the truth.

The organization, which was founded in 1934 by World War I pilots, sponsors recognition programs from the Eubank Services Award to ROTC scholarships. Their ultimate goal is to promote flying, safety and the military.

"Unless you're a pilot, you're probably not going to know who we are," said Ed Waddy, 325th Operations Support Squadron contract instructor, and flight captain of the Pelican Flight, the local Daedalians chapter. "What we'd like to be known as is a service organization."

Mr. Waddy said his flight, which is 125 members strong, is involved in many local events, such as Veterans Day parades and war rallies, as well as in local veterans organizations.

In fact, according to the Daedalians' Web site, www.daedalians.org, one of their objectives is, "To encourage military aerospace activities to ensure that the United States of America maintains its freedom and status among nations of the world."

But, the Web site also stated, the Order of the Daedalians first began as an organization exclusively for WWI pilots from all military branches.

Named after Daedalus, from the Greek legend of the first man to achieve heavier-than-air flight, the organization not only opened up its membership to all military pilots, they also changed headquarters twice, ending up at Randolph AFB, Texas, and created many different awards, scholarships and recognition programs to promote excellence.

There are awards given to both pilots and Airmen, said Mr. Waddy, ranging from the Avallah R. Parsons Safety Awards, recognizing the three areas of flight safety, ground safety and weapons safety, to the Smokin' Joe Henderson Award, given to a pilot voted by his peers as the person they would most want to go to war with.

"The Smokin' Joe Henderson Award is unique in that it



Isaac Gibson

Ed Waddy, right, 325th Operations Support Squadron contract instructor and Order of the Daedalians Pelican Flight captain, poses with Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, left, and award winners Maj. Lance Wilkins, 2nd Lt. Meagan Bender and Master Sgt. Joe Chavarria at a Daedalians Awards banquet at the Officers' Club here March 17.

has nothing to do with objective performance," said Mr. Waddy. "It's a warrior award. It's actually a vote of (a pilot's) peers saying that he is the best warrior in the wing."

There are also the Daedalians scholarships to consider.

"We have the John and Alice Egan (multi-year mentoring) Scholarship program," said Mr. Waddy, who's been a Daedalian since 1990. "It's given to college level ROTC students who aspire to be pilots."

Egan program winners can potentially get up to \$10,000 spread over as many as four years, according to the Web site.

Not only do the Daedalians recognize top-notch performers, they also are actively seeking new members to keep the organization alive through the younger generation.

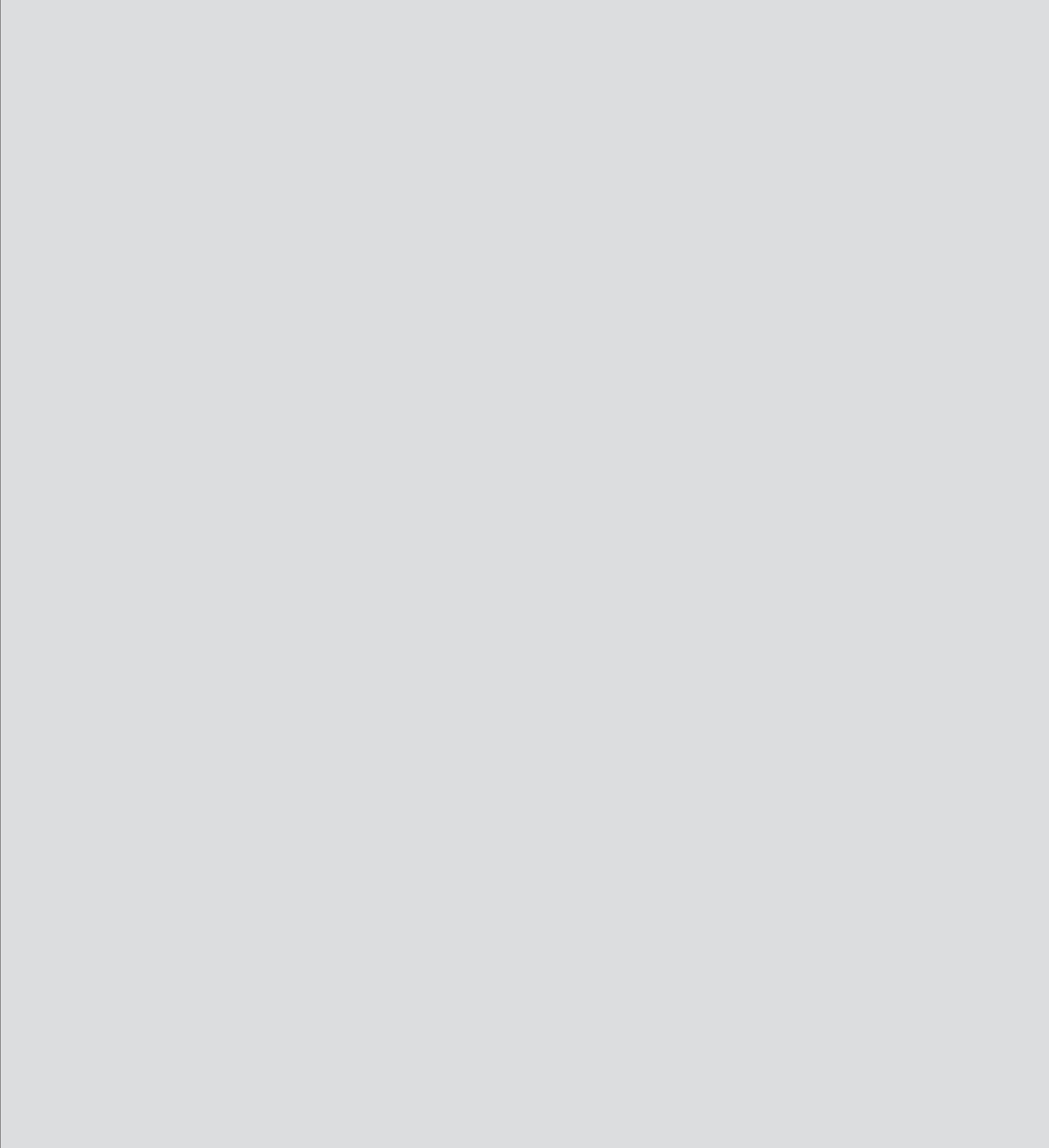
"We are always looking for members," said Mr. Waddy. "So, anybody who is a military pilot should contact us, and we'll be glad to look at them for membership."



1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Wing man

Senior Airman Ryan Jay Spencer 325th Main-tenance Squadron Aircraft Structural Main-tenance journeyman, fits an F-15 Eagle leading edge wingtip spar into place during repairs to the aircraft. Maintainers noticed the skin on the aircraft's wingtip peeled up in several places making it necessary to replace the tip.



Dog gone: Tyndall's K-9 SFS members work, play, deploy

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When a small, special group of Tyndall security forces members deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism, they add one extra item to their mobility bags – doggie treats.

That's because these cops are part of the canine crew, a small group of Airmen partnered with one of seven military working dogs assigned to the 325th Security Forces Squadron MWD kennel.

The teams of two become best friends and where one goes, the other follows.

"Each dog is assigned a dedicated handler, and one won't deploy without the other," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Vibert, a dog handler.

The canine/handler teams remain busy supporting the GWOT, often deploying to work directly with Army or Marine units who are short on military working dogs. And their presence overseas has been paying off, said Senior Airman Alan Frank, a dog handler.

"We have an Airman in Iraq right now working with the Marines, and he and his dog have found multiple underground weapon caches," Airman Frank said. "The dogs help them cover a lot of ground quickly and find items that people alone would have a hard time discovering."

In addition to uncovering hidden weapon caches and detecting explosives, which remain their most important jobs, the dogs are vital assets in other deployed duties, Sergeant Vibert added.

"The dogs are a major psychological deterrent," he said. "They are kept visible as much as possible on the perimeter of installations so people can see them."

The dogs are starting to evolve into more of a combat role as well, Sergeant Vibert continued.

"Canines help in building clearings with the Army and Special Forces because they can detect an intruder or adversary hiding inside a room without opening the door," he said.

Their success doesn't come naturally, however. Intense and continuous training is required before a military working dog is even qualified to deploy. That training starts at Lackland AFB, Texas, at the Department of Defense Military Working Dog School.

The six-month self-paced program begins with three months of detection skills training, in which they learn to sniff out explosives or narcotics. The last three months are dedicated to teaching the dogs to scout or attack on command.

"Once they complete those tasks, the dogs are sent to a base where they complete advanced training similar to 5-level upgrade training," said Staff Sgt. John Jacob, the squadron's kennel master.

The squadron recently received a young German Shepherd named Walker, who is eager to please and play as he learns to master the kennel's obstacle course, a part of his upgrade training.

"Walker is still young and has only been



Walker, a 325th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, practices going through the tunnel at the kennel's obstacle course here. The German Shepherd is the kennel's newest member.

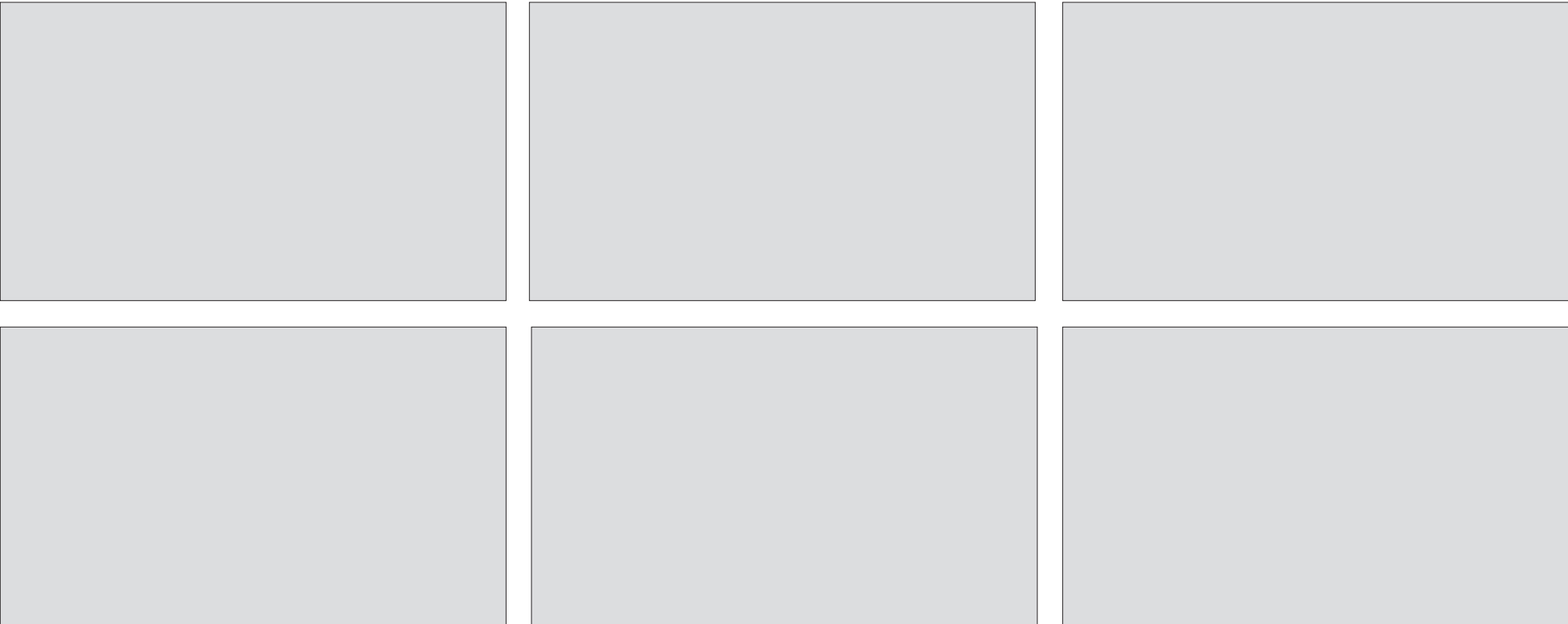
on our obstacle course twice, but we don't see any major problems with him," said Sergeant Vibert, Walker's dedicated handler. "He should go through with the training upgrade relatively quickly, but some dogs can definitely take longer than others."

Only the most adaptive dogs become fully qualified in attack work and either narcotics or explosive detection. Dogs that excel at one but are less than successful in the other don't make the cut for the strenuous and demanding duties required of military work-

ing dogs. Those that don't succeed are either adopted, returned to the seller, or sold to other departments like a police station who needs a dog solely for detection or attack, but not both.

Sergeant Vibert said Tyndall can be assured that every dog assigned here is dual certified and trained to overcome any obstacle, here or overseas.

"We train here for everything that could possibly happen, and wherever we get sent to, we are ready to go," he said.



Personnel records to stay at AFPC

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Airmen who retire or separate don't have to wait several months to receive requested copies of certain records thanks to a recent change in how the Air Force maintains personnel records.

The 49-year-old practice of sending nearly 5,500 personnel records each month to the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, Mo. ended in February as part of an effort to save money and give Airmen better access to their records.

"People usually have a lengthy wait before receiving copies of their records from the NPRC and it costs the Air Force around \$8 million a year to maintain records there," said Mrs. Jo Hogue, chief of master personnel records at the Air Force Personnel Center. "That price tag would keep increasing if we sent more records to the NPRC and our customers wouldn't have the accessibility we'll be able to provide."

"Air Force Personnel is committed to providing state of the art, convenient, leading edge service and this is another step in the effort to make Air Force personnel records available online anytime," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "We hope to be able to offer that capability to our active duty customers sometime in the next few years."

In the meantime, former active-duty Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004 can request copies of records such as DD Form 214s, performance reports and other information by writing or faxing:

AFPC/DPFFCMP
550 C St. West, Suite 19
Randolph AFB, TX 78150

Fax: (210) 565-4021/DSN 665-4021

People requesting their own records need to send a signed note that includes their name, social security number, contact information and specific record requested. Those requesting a relative's record also need to provide their relationship to the former Airman.

Former Guard and Reserve Airmen who retired or separated on or after Oct. 1, 2004 can write or fax: HQ ARPC/PSDC
6760 E. Irvington Place, Suite 4000
Denver, CO 80280
Commercial (303) 676-7071
DSN 926-7071

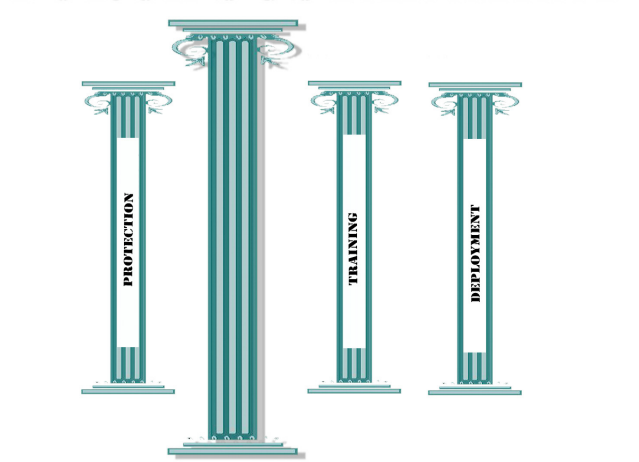
Those who retired or separated before Oct. 1, 2004 can visit the NPRC Web site for record request instructions: http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis.html.

This change doesn't affect the disposition of medical and dental records, according to Mrs. Hogue. They will still be stored permanently at the NPRC.

"From now on, all Air Force personnel records will be scanned for permanent electronic storage here in the Automated Records Management System and the records that are already at the NPRC will stay there," Mrs. Hogue said. "Converting the records from paper to electronic also provides an additional backup version of each record."

Before this change, the paper copy that went to the NPRC was the only copy of a person's record. Now there are two e-versions in separate locations, according to Mrs. Hogue. The new system's backups are approved by the National Archivist, head of the National Archives and Records Administration, the federal agency responsible for preserving the nation's history.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



The new ARMS' backup systems allow the Air Force to return to the practice of eliminating the paper versions of records. From 1971-1994, AFPC destroyed the original copies of individual master personnel records because a microfilm copy was attached to the Unit Personnel Record Group that was forwarded to the NPRC, according to Mrs. Hogue. When the first electronic record storage system started in 1995, AFPC began storing paper copies of master personnel records again because the new system didn't provide a backup like the microfilm did.

Those who served or are currently serving as active duty members can call the Air Force Personnel Contact Center more information at (800) 616-3775, commercial (210) 565-5000 or DSN 665-5000. Air National Guard or Reserve can call the Air Reserve Personnel Center at (800) 525-0102.

Airman convicted of forcible sodomy

LT. COL. KAREN S. WHITE
97th Air Mobility Wing Judge Advocate General

ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) — An Airman here was found guilty of forcible sodomy in a court-martial and sentenced to 35 years confinement.

After three days of testimony and deliberation, a panel of officers found Staff Sgt. Michael Rangel, of the 97th Communications Squadron, guilty of forcible sodomy on diverse occasions and acquitted him of failure to obey a lawful regulation for misuse of a government computer.

Besides the confinement, the panel sentenced him to a dishonorable discharge, demotion to airman basic and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

The case centered on a teenage boy who lived with Sergeant Rangel and was forcibly sodomized four to five times a week over a three-year period.

The victim testified about the coercion that Sergeant Rangel asserted over him, forcing him to submit to the acts of sodomy against his will.

The government also presented evidence of previous acts of forcible sodomy committed on his nephew and another boy he babysat when he was a teenager 17 years ago.

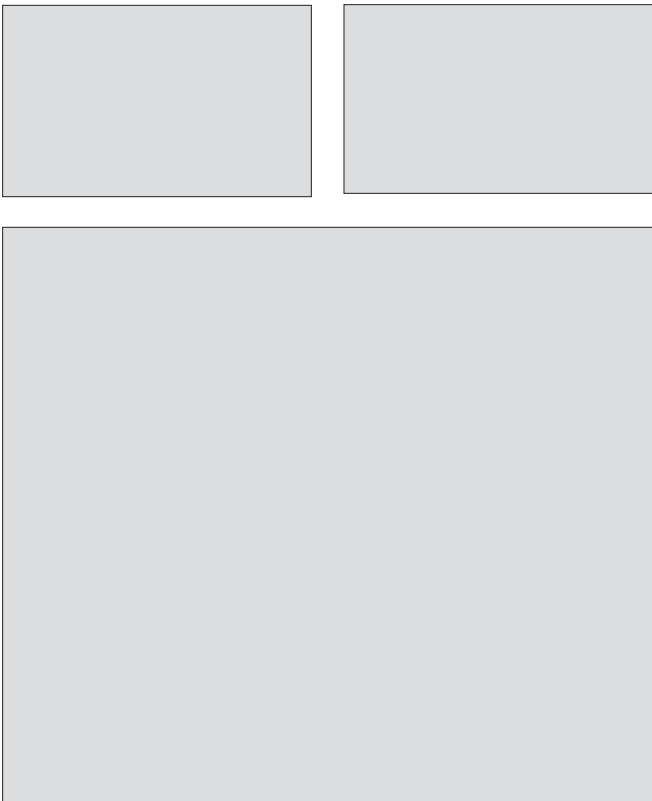
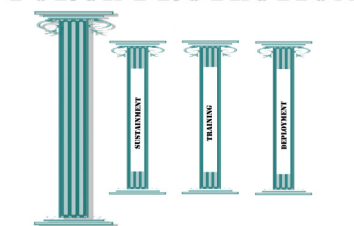
During the sentencing, Capt. Tamara Girton, a member of the trial team, argued that although Sergeant Rangel's on-duty perfor-

mance was thought of as "exemplary," his off-duty conduct was far from that.

She also said that his misconduct was deserving of lengthy confinement and dishonorable discharge.

"The sentence today ensures that this man will not be anywhere where he might be able to hurt any more victims for a very, very long time," said Maj. Ralph Paradiso, chief military justice

FORCE PROTECTION



Defensor hominis: ADC ‘defends all people’

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In the Air Force, for every offense, real or perceived, there’s a defense.

At Tyndall, it’s the Area Defense Counsel, part of an Air Force-wide legal defense network, which provides free legal counsel to military clients who find themselves facing punitive actions from letters of counseling to general courts-martial.

Consisting of a defense paralegal specialist and a defense attorney, the two-person office handles issues from advice about crafting responses to punishment to representing clients at courts-martial.

“It’s our responsibility to hold the government to the burden of proof,” said Capt. Brad Stanley, Tyndall’s Area Defense Counsel. “My loyalty is to my client, the military member, as long as it remains within ethical standards of conduct.”

For clients, the first person they usually have contact with is Staff Sgt. Jeri Goff, a defense paralegal. Whether a phone call, appointment or walk-in, she’s ready to assist however necessary.

While Sergeant Goff is limited to a certain extent on how she can assist clients, she is able to initially advise them and, based on their trust of her, can go further to help craft responses from letters of counseling to Articles 15. She said clients know about their ADC as first sergeants and commanders let the person know it is their right to seek counsel.

“When I initially meet a client, I focus on the whole person concept, not just the problem at hand,” Sergeant Goff said.

She said this approach is valuable when she helps put together “sentence exhibits,” a package that provides a comprehensive picture of clients, their families, their strengths, and past successes.

“I love helping people,” the sergeant said. “It’s great when we have good results.”

Captain Stanley said what he enjoys most is going out and meeting people around the base and doing preventive briefings on ADC

services instead of meeting them in his office.

Audiences include commander’s calls and the First Term Airmen Center. Additionally, sometimes a previous client does the briefing to provide more of a peer-to-peer perspective.

“We brief wherever we can get a venue,” Captain Stanley said. “While we want to prevent punitive actions through our briefings, we also talk about consequences of substandard performance or behavior.”

Both also agree they enjoy the autonomous atmosphere of their office as their chain of command resides in Washington D.C., though being just a two-person office also often means long hours. The captain said he once worked a case at another base for 71 days straight, averaging 17-hour days.

“Once you get over here from base legal, you can’t be lazy,” he said.

Aside from their responsibilities to clients, they also have to manage day-to-day office administrative tasks, from budget to equipment to feedbacks and performance reports.

“It does require a lot of work, but so much of it is rewarding as well,” he said.

As for a limit on the number of cases he can handle, he said “You handle as many as you think you can.”

As one example, he pointed to a stack of papers on his office floor nearly a foot and a half high, the record of just one trial.

If the ADC does require assistance, Sergeant Goff said the Tyndall ADC is part of the Eastern Circuit, a network that puts ADC services of 10 other bases in the Eastern United States at their disposal. Likewise, since Tyndall is in the circuit, the captain has represented clients from these other bases.

Sergeant Goff explained that reasons to require assistance could range from case overload to local conflict of interest. Captain Stanley said when he does have a client from another base, they communicate via e-mail and video teleconference. If a court-martial is involved, he will go TDY to the particular base for its duration. Also, within the circuit,



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

Staff Sgt. Jeri Goff, right, a Tyndall Area Defense Counsel paralegal, and Capt. Brad Stanley, Tyndall ADC, review notes prior to a court-martial. The sergeant and captain provide legal help to military members facing possible punitive actions.

is the “buddy base” program, which offers ADC assistance from nearby Air Force bases like Eglin and MacDill.

So what does it take to be a good ADC? According to the captain, the first prerequisite is to withhold initial judgment.

“When a client comes through my door, I don’t want to place any preconceived notions. You have to build a trust and rapport,” he said. “I tell them up front, ‘You don’t know me from Adam,’ as far as trusting my counsel.”

He said he has a slow approach, taking the time to get to know each client well to determine the best way to approach each situation.

And he admits while there have been clients he hasn’t necessarily liked, that doesn’t affect the quality of his representation.

“I detach myself personally and emotionally,” Captain Stanley said. “I’m there to represent my client to the utmost of my ability using any and all tools I have available.”

Resources the ADC staff uses are their legal library, Air Force Instructions and meetings with commanders and first sergeants. He said he’s had the opportunity to establish

a strong rapport in the base community since he served in the wing legal office for two and a half years prior to becoming the ADC.

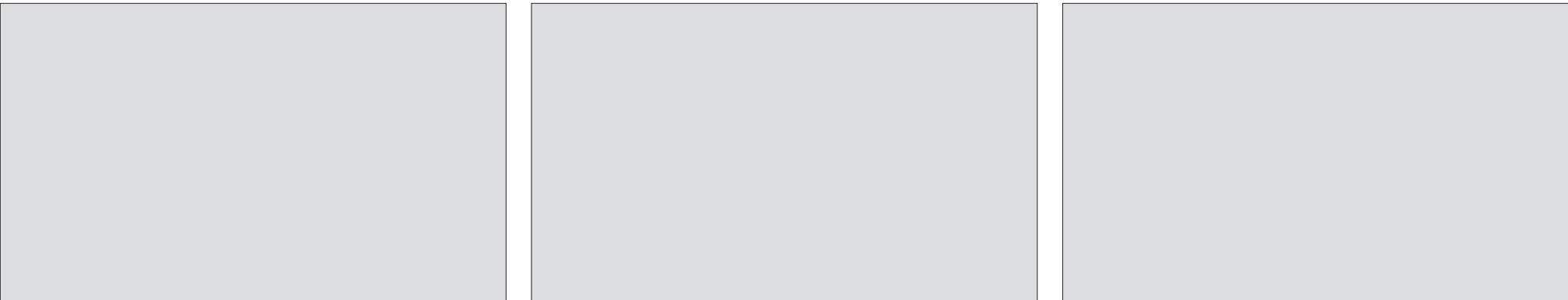
“I enjoy a very good relationship with the base community,” he said. “I think it goes back to my approach, you get more flies with honey than vinegar.”

Captain Stanley said his biggest challenge overall is avoiding developing a bunker mentality.

“You can’t hole up in your office, you have to get out and meet with people in your base community, even as demanding on your time as the job is. All courts-martial are challenging but you have to stay focused and committed and not give in because it’s tough.”

And for his focus and commitment, the captain has received a lot of positive feedback from previous clients. He keeps all the cards and letters he gets, many which laud his determined attitude. And he’s received them not only from clients but family members as well.

“I get the greatest satisfaction when I can help save a client’s career,” he said.



● FROM TOWER PAGE 11

ing aircraft, 15 departing aircraft and dealing with an emergency – all within 20 minutes.

Additionally, the simulator is programmed for voice recognition and response, so controllers are talking to the machine as they would an aircraft and it’s responding in the same way a pilot would. Amazingly, the aircraft actually respond to the controller’s instructions such as “going around” or taxiing to park.

As for the graphics, Airman Young said designers took panoramic photographs of Tyndall from the control tower and designed a virtual base complete with exact replicas of Tyndall’s buildings, vehicles and aircraft.



Senior Airman Joseph Young, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, runs scenarios on the air traffic control simulator for student controllers to practice.

For Airman 1st Class Dwight Allen, an air traffic control apprentice, the best feature of the simulator is its ability to produce realistic scenarios.

“The simulator creates a dynamic environment that lets students learn without the hazards of killing someone,” he said. “As a new guy it can get pretty scary, but as you progress you begin to relax and say ‘the more the merrier.’”

According to Airman Young, students spend about eight months here getting rated. The training begins with a one- to two-month Front Load Course, in which students focus on learning the Tyndall-specific rules and regulations. Once the front load training is complete, students put the knowledge they gained during the training to use through practical application in the simulator.

“Students are allotted two hours of simulator training each day, which allows them to complete about five or six 20-minute scenarios,” Airman Young said.

Once training is complete and air traffic control apprentices are checked out in all of the tower positions, they are awarded their 5-level and upgraded to full fledged controllers, and they get to wear their coveted air traffic control Air Force Specialty Code badge.

“I’m looking forward to getting rated and being able to wear the badge,” said Airman Allen, who’s been here since June 2004. “This career field is so dynamic. It’s always changing, and you get to see something new each day.”



